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Tuesday, August 30, 2016 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

SO MUCH FOR THIS PROTEST

Eagle won't join Colin Kaepernick in anthem sit-down. 22

Beloved comedic actor dies. 2

A play about Frank Rizzo gets an encore performance. 18

DAZED AND REFUSED

Hardly anybody pays Philadelphia's pot fines. 2

ISTOCK

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

ACTOR GENE WILDER DEAD AT 83

Actor Gene Wilder, best known for his role in the fantasy film "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" and comedic star turns in such Mel Brooks farces as "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein," died at age 83, his family said in a statement. Wilder, an often frantic presence in some of the funniest movies of the 1970s and '80s with his kinky curls and startled blue eyes, succumbed to complications from Alzheimer's disease, which he had battled privately for the past three years, the statement said. REUTERS

Gene Wilder GETTY IMAGES

POLICE: SOCIAL MEDIA ADDS TO PANIC OVER 'GUNFIRE' AT LAX

2 A security panic that crippled Los Angeles International Airport and sent hundreds of passengers fleeing from terminals was triggered by reports of gunfire that proved false but were amplified by word-of-mouth and social media, police said on Monday. The shooting scare on Sunday night, which marked the worst security disruption in nearly three years at the second-busiest U.S. airport, began with police receiving a call reporting gunshots fired at a United Airlines gate inside Terminal 8, police said. The initial call came in moments after airport police had responded to separate reports of a man wearing a black cape and mask and carrying a sword in the baggage area of an adjacent terminal, according to airport police spokesman Robert Pedregon. REUTERS

WHITE HOUSE SAYS IT SEES A PATH TO APPROVAL OF PACIFIC TRADE DEAL

3 The White House said on Monday it could still win congressional approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact before President Barack Obama leaves office, and warned that failing to do so would undermine U.S. leadership in the region. "The president is going to make a strong case that we have made progress and there is a path for us to get this done before the president leaves office," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told a news briefing ahead of Obama's trip to Asia this week. Obama has made the 12-nation free trade deal the centerpiece of a diplomatic "pivot" to Asia, but the prospects for congressional approval have looked increasingly dim, with both major presidential candidates — Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump — standing opposed. REUTERS

Less than quarter of weed fines in Philly actually get paid

Many pot smokers seem to be dodging punishment for softened marijuana laws, but it's unclear if anyone cares.

Pot activist Mike Whiter was the first person to be cited under Philadelphia's marijuana law. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

SAM NEWHOUSE
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On a recent sunny weekday morning in Center City Philadelphia, a man in a wheelchair decided to spark up a blunt.

But the marijuana smoker's pleasure was interrupted by police officers who clearly saw him smoking near the SEPTA entrance on the northwest corner of 15th and Market streets.

Despite their complaints, officers took the blunt and issued tickets to the man and his friends. But as they did, they joked that the man and his friends would be back there the next day and the day after that doing the same thing.

"Now it's just a fine, but it's bulls— because nobody pays the fine," one cop joked.

One officer was fine with the situation, but the other wasn't, and the cause of his anger was clearly indicated by his finger pointing at City Hall across the street as he spoke: "This is his fault. Kenney did it for the votes."

Indeed, the police officers, who did not want to be identified, were right about the how little respect there is for criminal fines for marijuana under decriminalization laws that took effect in 2014.

According to city stats, there have been about 2,853 marijuana citations issued, 22 percent of those for public use, the rest for possession.

Out of $119,010 in fines issued, potheads have only paid back a piddling $30,085, less than 25 percent of the total.

Dazed and confused yet? Try this on for size: The mayor's office doesn't really seem to care.

"The goal isn't revenue, it's to keep people out of the criminal justice system because of a low-level offense, which decriminalization achieves," said Lauren Hitt, spokeswoman for mayor Jim Kenney.

She pointed out debt-dodgers would still end up in the same collection process as normal code violation notices.

Kenney's not alone. Gov. Tom Wolf said Monday that he supports decriminalization and that he wants the state to significantly cut marijuana arrests. Earlier this year he signed a law legalizing medical marijuana, although it won't be available in the state until 2018.

In Philly, marijuana fines are $25 for possession of up to 30 grams (an ounce) of marijuana and $100 for smoking in public since October 2014. The law was changed by former Mayor Michael Nutter with strong support from then-Councilman Kenney.

At the time the laws changed, Philly cops were locking up an estimated 4,000 adults and youths annually for pot possession and use, the vast majority of them African-American.

2.8K
2,853 CITATIONS

Marijuana legalization advocate Chris Goldstein estimated that decriminalization saves the police department more than $4 million a year in manpower costs.

"Philadelphia might not get 50 grand in collected fines, but it saved a lot in having more police officers on the street," he said.

Goldstein calculated the $4 million figured based on a Rand Corp. study in Vermont that found weed arrests cost $1,266 in man-hours compared to about $20 for the ticket.

"We've saved tens of thousands of hours of beat police time in the city. It's really hard to put a value on that," Goldstein said.

Back when he was lobbying for the law, then-councilman Kenney blasted the general policy of arresting people for marijuana and estimated cops spent 17,000 hours a year on weed arrests.

With that little money coming in through fines, Philly pot advocate N.A. Poe said the low pay rate shows the city should just cut fines and citations altogether.

"Why not take the next step? Let's get rid of the fine," he said.

Poe believes the weed citations and confiscation by police still create negative encounters with the public, and argued fines probably aren't being paid because the people getting them are predominately black and poor.

"The reason it's not getting paid is because the numbers are still skewed racially. You're citing more lower-income people for the pot," he said. "I personally want to avoid that whole thing. That takes you down to broken windows policing, the stop-and-frisk avenue."

Goldstein, who supports full legalization, said gradual legalization may create changes for police officers used to locking up pot smokers, he said, it's where the country is headed. Five more states have full marijuana legalization on the ballot this November, and the measures are expected to pass in all five — Arizona, California, Maine, Massachusetts and Nevada.

"They're observing the real effect of decriminalization. It's accomplished something quite profound. It's removed fear in prohibition," Goldstein said. "Police are seeing that. It might be a little uncomfortable for them, but again, they were arresting themselves out of jobs."

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Philly DA's girlfriend arrested in tire slashing

Stacey Cummings, 47, confessed last week and was charged Sunday.

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Williams MARIA. S. YOUNG

Bad news just keeps coming for District Attorney Seth Williams.

A woman identified as the DA's girlfriend was charged Sunday for allegedly slashing the tires on two city-owned security vehicles parked outside his home in November 2015.

Stacey Cummings, 47, came forward Wednesday, seven months after investigators in Williams' office said the case was too complicated to solve. She now faces charges of criminal mischief and possession of an instrument of crime, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

Charges have been filed by the Delaware County District Attorney's Office to avoid a potential conflict of interest, Williams' office said in a statement:

"Due to the potential conflict of interest, all decisions regarding investigatory matters, charges, bail requests, and the prosecution of this matter are being handled by the Delaware County District Attorney's Office. The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office referred the matter to Delaware County but was required to enter the charges approved by Delaware County into the Philadelphia arrest report system."

Cummings had been romantically linked to Williams in a 2014 financial disclosure filing. According to CBS Philly, Cummings had given Williams a Rolex watch valued at $6,500, which he declared as a Christmas gift.

It's not clear what their current relationship is, nor what her motive was to slash the tires.

In charging documents, Cummings told investigators she committed the act because she had "received some information that was very upsetting and reacted poorly to it," the Inquirer reported.

On Nov. 11, 2015, tires on two city-owned vehicles assigned to Williams and a member of his security detail were slashed, according to the Inquirer. Replacing the tires reportedly cost taxpayers $845.

Gym for kids aims to open 20 new locations in Philly area

A franchise specializing in early educations for toddlers and kids believe the Philadelphia area is ripe for expansion of its early education and recreation options.

"Nurture the genius, unleash the goofball" is the motto on Romp n' Roll's website, which has one location in Willow Grove and hopes to open up to 20 more in the region over the next five years.

Romp n' Roll describes itself as a "modernized kids gym" for children aged 3 months to 5 years.

"Parents will always be seeking engaging, quality programs for their children, and we strive to fill that gap between learning and fun for young children," said Michael Barnett, CEO and co-founder of Romp n' Roll, who founded the company in 2004 along with wife Babz. "My own experiences as a parent, along with my wife's, inspired the birth of the Romp n' Roll brand."

The brand hopes to expand using "strategic franchise partnerships." The company cited a Child Trends study which found only 15 percent of the 100,000 early care and education seats in Philadelphia were deemed "high quality."

New Romp n' Roll franchises could fill the gap with what the company describes as "a whimsical wonderland of vivid color and imaginative design for the best early childhood classes, camps and parties available."

The company, in announcing its expansion plan, said parents in Philly and nearby towns like Doylestown, Springfield and King of Prussia need "supplemental early education options," adding that "a business concept aimed at young children in their prime developmental years would never be just a fad, as parents would always be on the lookout for educational, engaging opportunities for their children."

A mother and her baby play at Romp n' Roll. KLAUS VON GREBMER

Franchise-wise, Romp n' Roll pulled in $2 million in sales in the U.S. and $30 million worldwide in 2015, the company said.

Visit Rompnroll.com for more information.

SAM NEWHOUSE

The Pearl Theatre GOOGLE MAPS

Beloved Pearl movie theater abruptly closes

Theater on Temple University campus abruptly closes ahead of academic year, but another movie theater will take over.

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The long-beloved spacious movie theater where Temple kids could get their thrills and buckets of buttery popcorn will be changing hands.

The Pearl Theatre, located at Cecil B. Moore and Broad Street, is in a building owned by Blatstein Properties. Blatstein plans to turn the location over to a new owner, making it the AMC North Broad Street 7, Philly.com reported.

The theater is set to reopen Friday under new ownership and start renovations in early 2017 — including the reclining chairs found in most newer movie theaters.

Despite the reopening, news hit fans of the original Pearl hard. It opened in North Philly in 2006 and was remembered for holding performances by local artists and comedians in addition to major motion pictures with weekly discounted tickets on Tuesday.

"The Pearl Theatre is closed! I just might shed a tear," one woman tweeted.

"I'm just getting news that The Pearl Theatre at Avenue North is being closed down. easily my fave cinema in the country, so many memories," another wrote.

FREE SEPTA RIDES FOR EAGLES FANS

SEPTA to offer free subway rides to Eagles fans on opening day

Heading to the Eagles opener against the Browns in two weeks?

You should probably take the subway.

Parking is costing upward of $30 at the stadium and, thanks to Miller Lite and the Eagles, a ride to and from the Linc on the Broad Street Line on Sept. 11 will be free between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

The event is also meant to help decrease the number of drunk-driving incidents.

"The Free Rides program is a great opportunity for Eagles fans to ride the Broad Street Line during our home opener," Eagles president Don Smolenski said. "The Eagles encourage fans to stay safe and make smart choices on game day by riding the Miller Lite Free Rides on SEPTA."

Eagles open practice.
CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Just three seasons ago, a three-car crash killed two and injured seven others after a game in South Philly.

"Even through all the cheering, as a transit system, our top priority is always the safety and security of our customers," said Jeff Knueppel, SEPTA general manager, "We encourage Eagles fans to take advantage of the free rides from Miller Lite and let SEPTA be their designated driver."

The Eagles kick off their 2016 season at 1 p.m. on Sept. 11 at Lincoln Financial Field.

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BRIEF

Truck carrying Takata air bag materials explodes in Texas, killing one

A truck transporting Takata Corp air bag propellant material at the center of a global recall crashed and exploded in Texas last week, killing one woman and injuring four other people, the auto parts supplier said on Monday.

Takata said the truck, operated by a subcontractor, was traveling from a Takata plant in Moses Lake, Washington, to a Takata warehouse in Eagle Pass, Texas, early on Aug. 22 when an accident occurred.

The driver of the tractor-trailer "failed to negotiate" a curve on a highway and crashed near a house, according to a preliminary statement from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"The trailer [carrying air bag detonators and blasting agent] exploded and engulfed in flames, causing fire to the home and a passing vehicle."

The DPS said 67-year-old Lucila Robles was killed. Local media reports said she was inside the house near where the explosion took place. The agency said the house caught fire after the accident.

The DPS was investigating the incident, the statement said.

A Takata spokesman in the United States said the company had reported the incident to U.S. safety regulators and was cooperating with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The spokesman said on Monday the propellant in the truck contained ammonium nitrate, a volatile chemical compound. Takata air bags containing ammonium nitrate have in the past exploded and been linked to the deaths of at least 14 people, triggering the biggest recall in the global auto industry. REUTERS

EpiPen GETTY IMAGES

Mylan to launch generic EpiPen at half the price of original

The company reduced the out-of-pocket costs of EpiPen for some patients on Thursday, but kept the list price at about $600, a move that U.S. lawmakers and Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said was not enough. EpiPen cost about $100 in 2008.

Mylan NV said it would launch the first generic version of its allergy auto-injector EpiPen for $300, half the price of the branded product, the drugmaker's second step in less than a week to counter the backlash over the product's steep price.

Mylan said on Monday it expected to launch the generic product "in several weeks," an unusual move considering the branded best seller is still patent protected and major rival treatments have failed to get regulatory clearances.

"Our decision to launch a generic alternative to EpiPen is an extraordinary commercial response," Chief Executive Heather Bresch said Monday. "We determined that bypassing the brand system in this case and offering an additional alternative was the best option."

Mylan's price move failed to squelch criticism of the company's huge price increase for EpiPen since it acquired the product in 2007. The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform sent a letter to Mylan's CEO on Monday seeking documents on EpiPen pricing, including those relating to revenue from EpiPen sales since 2007, manufacturing costs, and the amount of money the company receives from federal government health care programs.

And former Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders tweeted on Monday, "At $300 generic EpiPens will still cost three times more than they did in 2007. This isn't a discount. It's a PR move."

Consumer watchdog group Public Citizen said Mylan's latest move was another "convoluted mechanism to avoid plain talk." It said activists on Tuesday will deliver petitions from more than 600,000 consumers and allergy sufferers to Mylan's headquarters in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, demanding further price cuts.

"We would like the company to drop the price to $100 for two EpiPens," said Public Citizen spokeswoman Angela Bradbery, adding that was about the price charged in France. She said the petitions were gathered by it and various other consumer groups, including Consumers Union. REUTERS

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Fox News calls anchor an 'opportunist' over her harassment claim

Fox, in a filing in New York state court in Manhattan, also said Tantaros signed an agreement to keep employment-related disputes out of court and asked a judge to send her Aug. 22 lawsuit to arbitration.

Roger Ailes is photographed Nov. 13, 2015 at Fox News' Manhattan headquarters in New York City. FOX NEWS VIA GETTY IMAGES

Fox News Network LLC on Monday said anchor Andrea Tantaros was an "opportunist" who made sexual harassment claims against former chairman Roger Ailes only after she was taken off the air for writing a book without permission.

Tantaros in her lawsuit says she was taken off the air in April in retaliation for rebuffing Ailes' advances and complaining to top officials at Fox News, a unit of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.

The network on Monday denied the claims, saying Tantaros was taking advantage of the publicity surrounding a sexual harassment lawsuit filed against Ailes in July by former Fox News anchor Gretchen Carlson that led to the chairman's resignation.

"Tantaros's [lawsuit] bears all the hallmarks of the 'wannabe,'" the network's lawyers wrote in the filing.

Fox says Tantaros lost her on-air spot because she wrote a book, "Tied Up in Knots: How Getting What We Wanted Made Women Miserable," and promoted it on the channel without authorization.

The book was released on April 26 by HarperCollins.

A lawyer for Tantaros did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tantaros in the lawsuit says Ailes, beginning in 2011, made numerous comments about her appearance and asked her to "twirl" for him. She said senior executive William Shine, who was promoted to co-president when Ailes resigned, and the company's top in-house lawyer dismissed complaints about Ailes.

Carlson's lawsuit against Ailes makes similar harassment allegations, but unlike Tantaros she did not claim she was silenced by other Fox executives and did not sue the company. Carlson's lawsuit prompted Fox to hire a prominent New York law firm to conduct an internal investigation.

On Monday, Fox News said Tantaros initially avoided speaking with investigators and eventually told them she could not recall any specific sexually-charged statements by Ailes.

Separately, lawyers for Ailes have said they plan to move to have Carlson's lawsuit in federal court in New Jersey sent to arbitration as well. REUTERS

Almost one in three fatalities involved drunk drivers or speeding. GETTY IMAGES

Traffic deaths rose 7.2 percent in 2015: Transportation Dept.

Last year 35,092 people died in traffic crashes in the United States, a 7.2 percent year-on-year increase that runs counter to a five-decade trend of declining fatalities, the U.S. Transportation Department said.

U.S. officials said lower gasoline prices combined with job growth increased the number of miles driven last year by the highest rate in nearly 25 years. Distracted driving was cited in about a tenth of traffic fatalities in 2015, the U.S. DOT said.

Data "showed traffic deaths rising across nearly every segment of the population," the department said in a statement.

The number of fatalities was near preliminary estimates issued nearly two months ago.

The last time U.S. traffic fatalities rose at a greater rate was in 1966, when they went up 8.1 percent. That was two years before the federal government required seat belts in cars.

While the number of fatalities rose in 2015, driving is far safer now in the United States than it was in the past. In 1966, the fatality rate — measured as deaths per miles driven — was five times higher than today. In that year, nearly 51,000 people were killed on U.S. roads.

Almost half of passenger vehicle occupants killed last year were not wearing safety belts, although the belts are standard equipment in all cars and required to be worn in some U.S. states, the DOT said. REUTERS

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FBI detects breaches against two states' voter systems

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Monday that investigators were also seeking evidence of whether other states may have been targeted.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has found breaches in Illinois and Arizona's voter registration databases and is urging states to increase computer security ahead of the Nov. 8 presidential election, according to a U.S. official familiar with the probe.

The FBI warning in an Aug. 18 flash alert from the agency's Cyber Division did not identify the intruders or the two states targeted.

Reuters obtained a copy of the document after Yahoo News first reported the story Monday.

Accessing information in a voter database, much of which is publicly accessible, does not necessarily suggest an effort to manipulate the votes themselves. When registering, voters typically provide their names, home addresses, driver's license or identification numbers, and party affiliations.

But U.S. intelligence officials have become increasingly worried that hackers sponsored by Russia or other countries may attempt to disrupt the presidential election.

Officials and cyber security experts say recent breaches at the Democratic National Committee and elsewhere in the Democratic Party were likely carried out by people within the Russian government. Kremlin officials have denied that.

An FBI spokeswoman would not comment on the alerts but said the agency "routinely advises" on "various cyber threat indicators observed during the course of our investigations."

The intrusions come amid repeated unsubstantiated claims by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump that the U.S. election system is "rigged."

Trump has cited emails leaked from the DNC that indicated the party leadership favored Hillary Clinton over rival candidate Bernie Sanders as reason to cast doubt on the electoral process in general. REUTERS

Voting booths stand at the ready. GETTY IMAGES

BRIEF

Colorado's anti-fracking measures fail to qualify for ballot

Environmental groups have failed to gather enough signatures to put two measures on Colorado's ballot in November that aim to curb fracking and oil and gas work, the state said on Monday.

The ballot initiatives would have transferred regulatory control of oil and gas development to local governments and created more stringent setback requirements to keep new oil and gas facilities further away from occupied structures.

Proponents gathered more than 98,492 signatures required to make the ballot, the state said, but failed to gather enough to offset the number that would possibly be rejected during a random sample that examines the validity of the signatures.

Proponents of the measures have 30 days to appeal the decision.

Earlier this year, the state's Supreme Court struck down local fracking bans approved in the cities of Fort Collins and Longmont.

Oil companies in Colorado, one of the top oil and gas producing states, had spent several million dollars trying to derail the campaign. REUTERS

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EU to hand Apple Irish tax bill of $1.1B: source

The European Commission will rule against Ireland's tax dealings with Apple on Tuesday, two source familiar with the decision told Reuters, one of whom said Dublin would be told to recoup over 1 billion euros in back taxes.

The Commission declined to comment on Monday.

The European Commission accused Ireland in 2014 of dodging international tax rules by letting Apple shelter profits worth tens of billions of dollars from tax collectors in return for maintaining jobs. Apple and Ireland rejected the accusation; both have said they will appeal any adverse ruling.

The source said the Commission will recommend a figure in back taxes that it expects to be collected, but it will be up to Irish authorities to calculate exactly what is owed.

A bill in excess of $1.12 billion would be far more than the 30 million euros each the European Commission previously ordered Dutch authorities to recover from U.S. coffee chain Starbucks and Luxembourg from Fiat Chrysler for their tax deals.

Both companies and countries have appealed those decisions.

When it opened the Apple investigation in 2014, the Commission told the Irish government that tax rulings it agreed in 1991 and 2007 with the iPhone maker amounted to state aid and might have broken EU laws.

The Commission said the rulings were "reverse engineered" to ensure that Apple had a minimal Irish bill and that minutes of meetings between Apple representatives and Irish tax officials showed

GETTY IMAGES

the company's tax treatment had been "motivated by employment considerations."

Apple employs 5,500 workers, or about a quarter of its European-based staff in the Irish city of Cork, where it is the largest private sector employer. It has said it paid Ireland's 12.5 percent rate on all the income that it generates in the country.

Ireland's low corporate tax rate has been a cornerstone of economic policy for 20 years, drawing investors from major multinational companies whose staff account for almost one in 10 workers in Ireland. GETTY IMAGES

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US to review use of private immigration prisons; shares slide

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said he directed advisory council to evaluate whether agency should continue to contract with private prison operators and make a recommendation by Nov. 30.

The Department of Homeland Security will study whether to discontinue using privately run detention centers, which the Justice Department recently called unsafe, for migrants. Shares of private-prison operators fell Monday after the news.

Advocates for immigrants have accused the companies of withholding proper mental health and medical care from detainees to boost profits.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a division of DHS, uses detention facilities run by Corrections Corp. of America and GEO Group.

Corrections Corp. of America's stock slid 9.4 percent and GEO Group's stock fell 6 percent immediately after news of the review. Both stocks were rebounding later in the afternoon.

Corrections Corp. of America has earned $689 million from ICE contracts since 2008, 12 percent of its revenue from state and federal contracts over that time, according to the website SmartProcure, which tracks government contracts. The company manages a facility for Central American women and children in Dilley, Texas.

A Reuters survey of 10 states with the largest contracts with private prison companies, including California and Texas, showed none had immediate plans to drop their contracts. REUTERS

GEO Group runs a similar facility in Karnes City, Texas, and has earned $1.18 billion from contracts with ICE since 2008, about 35 percent of its total revenue from government contracts, according SmartProcure data.

GEO Group said in a statement, "GEO's facilities under contract with ICE are highly rated and provide high-quality, cost-effective services in safe, secure, and humane residential environments pursuant to strict contractual requirements and the federal government's national standards," the statement said.

Corrections Corp. of America spokesman Steve Owen said, "We're proud of the quality and value of the services we provide and look forward to sharing that information."

Immigration advocates and members of Congress have ramped up pressure on DHS to end its contracts with the private prison companies since the Justice Department announced Aug. 18 it would do so.

That was prompted by an inspector general's report that criticized the safety and effectiveness of private prisons.

"Rather than wait for a review and a report from a committee, the president should ensure that the phase-out of private prisons ... is extended to DHS operations immediately," said Greg Chen, advocacy director at the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Democratic presidential candidate, and Democratic Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona asked DHS in a letter last week to end the practice. REUTERS

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Facebook CEO says group will not become a media company

Facebook Inc. will not become a media company, its founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg said on Monday, telling students the firm would remain a technology platform.

An increasing number of users are turning to social media networks, such as Facebook and Twitter, to find their news, but Zuckerberg said his firm had no ambitions to become a content provider.

"No, we are a tech company, not a media company," said Zuckerberg, after a young Italian asked him whether Facebook intended to become a news editor.

While acknowledging the role Facebook has in supplying users with news through their connections and stressing the

Mark Zuckerberg GETTY IMAGES

advantages of obtaining information from different parts of the world, Zuckerberg said Facebook was "a technology company, we build the tools, we do not produce any content."

"The world needs news companies, but also technology platforms, like what we do, and we take our role in this very seriously," he said, speaking from Rome's Luiss university.

Earlier on Monday, Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan had a private audience with Pope Francis. It was the latest in a string of meetings the pontiff has held with Silicon Valley leaders, including Apple CEO Tim Cook and Alphabet's boss Eric Schmidt.

Zuckerberg said he gave the Argentine pontiff a model of Aquila, Facebook's lightweight solar-powered drone aimed at beaming lasers to extend internet access to places that have yet to be connected.

"We … discussed the importance of connecting people, especially in parts of the world without internet access," Zuckerberg posted on his personal Facebook profile after the meeting. REUTERS

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Taylor Swift had jury duty, OK??

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the word

She skipped out on Sunday's VMAs and the potential Kimye run-in we all deserve, but Taylor Swift had a good excuse: She was fulfilling her civic duty like the rest of us plebs. Potential jurors for a Tennessee court were surprised by Swift's presence while awaiting selection for a criminal case Monday morning.

A fellow juror named Tracy Bates (@TracysActivism) photographed and tweeted Swift's attendance. The "New Romantics" singer, who is a Nashville resident, was happy to take selfies, sign autographs and chat with the pool of 29 while awaiting their voir dire. In a video posted by Bates, Swift listens intently as someone tells her that she always Snapchats her kids singing "Shake It Off," but incidentally didn't today — OF ALL DAYS. Perhaps a moment of relief when Swift replies, "That's so sweet." It certainly is. Sweet, sweet validation.

Justin Bieber reactivates Instagram for a hot second

Bieber is back on Instagram. Or not.

Two weeks after deactivating his account because of some mean comments about his girlfriend, Sofia Richie, the Biebs returned to Instagram early Monday and unfollowed ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez and model Hailey Baldwin.

And like all grand celebrity social media stunts, Twitter celebrated with a #JustinReactivatedParty.

Following his brief hiatus, the "Sorry" singer posted a bunch of adorable videos of his new adorable puppy, Todd. But apparently fans spoke too soon because moments after reactivating, Biebs tweeted, "Still no Instagram it was an accident." Current status? "Sorry, this page isn't available."

The pop star toyed with the hearts of many Beliebers and deactivated once again.

False alarm, everybody.

Ricky Martin is still 'Livin' la Vida Loca'

In case you were wondering.

ASYA GELMAN
Metro World News
letters@metro.us

Ricky Martin is on the last leg of his very, very long world tour. GETTY IMAGES

Menudo alumnus Ricky Martin is on the fourth and final leg of his One World Tour — which began in 2014, in support of his 10th studio album, "A Quien Quiera Escuchar." As the 44-year-old enjoys some downtime before dates in Europe, South and North America, Martin calls in from Puerto Rico to talk about life on the road, noting that he's not even sure where he lives these days.

The Olympic Games in Rio just finished, and Monica Puig from Puerto Rico won the gold medal in tennis this year. As far as I know you were very happy about it ...

The match was a-ma-zing! The way she played, her decisions on the court — they were outstanding. And she has a very well-deserved gold medal around her neck, because she is a very disciplined woman. Without a doubt, I was very proud! But not only me, every citizen of my island was celebrating!

You're also known for your humanitarian work. What made you get involved with charity?

When I was 12 years old, I became an ambassador of UNICEF and we worked a lot in Brazil and Mexico. And ever since I've been somewhere and somehow fighting for human rights. I worked mainly with children who are being forced to do prostitution, pornography … I spoke on their behalf.

I also have a Ricky Martin Foundation created to improve the welfare of children around the globe. This is a very important thing that I need to do as a celebrity — it allows me to talk to the audience about things that we all should be concerned about. Without a doubt, it is a very gratifying job — to help children.

It came up in the news there will be a new member of your family — a girl ... Is that true?

Wait! I wish! But not yet. I will wait may be another year. Right now I'm traveling a lot and doing so many concerts. Whenever my baby girl comes I would like to stop working and spend time with the baby.

You used to live in Miami, Spain, then Australia. Where do you call home now?

Believe it or not, I don't know where I live. I used to live in Miami, I lived in New York, I am a citizen of Spain, but I'm from Puerto Rico. So, my life is like one of a family of the circus. I'm thinking about moving to Los Angeles, next year maybe.

Sounds like you're "Livin' la Vida Loca" ...

Yes, yes. My life is definitely like "La Vida Loca." But I love what I do. I enjoy my career and my life. You know, one day you are in Monaco, next day you are in Tokyo. I love music and traveling. I was doing this for many, many years since I was a little child. I am pleased with my life, I can't complain.

Don't your children miss you?

No, no! My kids are always with me! They have very big passports!

Your latest album "A Quien Quiera Escuchar" had very positive reviews and was awarded a Grammy. But still, it feels that your music became more serious, grown-up. Do you feel it as well?

Maybe more romantic … I think, yes, it could be a little bit more serious, more musical, more based on my emotions. It reflects exactly where I'm at today. I was really happy when we got the Grammy, because I put so many emotions into my hours in the studio. It was very exhausting but gratifying at the same time.

Which song is your favorite from this album?

No, no, no, it's very difficult to answer. But there is one called "La Mordidita."

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Korn seeks out clarity on 'Serenity'

While on tour with Rob Zombie, the nu metal band looks back on their generation-spanning career.

RACHEL RACZKA
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The band's upcoming release "Serenity of Suffering" will be their 12th. DEAN KARR

Korn's drummer, Ray Luzier, has a side gig: He's an internationally sought-after percussion instructor, who has some pretty good advice for aspiring musicians: "Go to law school," he laughs.

On the brink of Korn's 12th studio release ("Serenity of Suffering," due Oct. 21), the Cali-bred band has just boomeranged their sound from West Coast nu metal to pseudo-dubstep and back again. Luzier knows the fickle favoritism of success and the amount of sheer luck that goes into making it big, noting even classical training won't guarantee you a spot in the limelight.

"These days the music business takes such wacky turns you need to sacrifice your life and family and take it on 110 percent," he says from Toronto. "If you want to do it, you really have to commit. And even if you're the top of your class, there's no guarantee you're going to get a job. And that's really, really scary."

Luzier chats about the band's upcoming album, their current tour with Rob Zombie and what it's like seeing two generations of Korn fans.

Can we talk about the video for "Insane," which just came out this week. Have you read any of the press about it?

David Lee Roth told me to never read your own press — and never read the comments. Anyone can make up a fake name and go online and attack anyone they want to. I've looked in vain [this time], but it's been mostly positive from what I've skimmed through. The thing I see the most is "Korn is back," which is funny to me because we never went anywhere.

How does it feel being a band that's been around long enough to "come back"?

There's no quota or touring cycle, we just go, go, go, and if it's affecting people in a way that makes them say we have our old sound back, we'll take it. A lot of [this new album's sound] has to do with [Grammy-winning producer] Nick Raskulinecz. He's one of my favorite producers, and whenever I pick up an album I love, I see it's produced by him. He makes a band feel the way they're supposed to feel, and sound the way they're meant to sound.

And you're at the point in your careers where your music, and subsequently your fans, are spanning generations.

It's cool seeing it. You see fathers and their sons who are in their teens. Their pops saw Korn back in the day, and now it's great seeing parents turning their kids onto our music. We're blessed to be doing what we're doing in our 40s. Now it's all about our families and our music.

What's it like still feeling like you're still living part of your life on the road?

It's hard. We all have families and kids now, and that's the roughest part about what we do. I got to see my 5-year-old start his first week of kindergarten, but we usually miss these moments. I've been fortunate enough to catch all five birthdays, and that's still the hardest part.

With "Serenity of Suffering" being your 12th release — how are you able to par down your set lists on this tour?

It's really hard. Munky [James Shaffer] is really good at trying to balance it out. It's one of those things where you can't go a night without playing "Freak on a Leash," or people will throw tomatoes at you. Then the old-school fans want to hear the obscure stuff. I remember years back we made a medley [for tour] of nine songs in 12 minutes. It's a lot. I think Korn has over 145 songs in our catalog.

Going back to Nick, what do you think was different in the way that you worked together that will show up on this album?

It's a paradigm shift. He has a totally different perspective on things. Being the type of band we are, we'll just write and write and write, so it's really important for us to have a producer who comes in and goes, "Hey, this isn't as good as you thought" or "This is better than you think it is." Nick had a lot to do with getting our sound down. We started in June of [2015] and were up to 35 [recorded] tunes, and Nick whittled it down. We ended up recording 16 songs with him, for the album and other projects.

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Rebecca Taylor knows you want to live in your jeans.

The designer, whose dreamy feminine dresses and delicate floral-print tops have been your go-tos for date nights, parties and job interviews for almost 20 years, now wants to inspire your off-duty looks, as well.

This month, Taylor launched La Vie, a collection of casual, more accessible, wardrobe staples.

"It's much more personal to me, this collection," explains the designer.

"I wanted to do something that felt more like what myself and my friends wear on the weekends."

For the busy mother of three, downtime is spent in breezy striped sweaters, slouchy cargo pants, cotton Victorian blouses and effortless vintage-inspired jeans.

After years of "trolling through thrift stores and putting up with wearing my skinny skinny skinny jeans," Taylor decided to craft her perfect pair.

"I love a high-waist jean that feels relaxed in the leg," she says of her new Beatrice and Anais styles. "It's comfortable, and when I sit down I'm not losing the back of it."

That same ease-meets-ladylike sensibility carries through the rest of the relaxed collection. Standouts include a crisp poplin dress with sweet eyelet-lace trim, polished voile tops with ruffle collars and soft boucle pullovers.

The best part: The prices are more laid-back than the main line, too. T-shirts start at $95, and a chambray jacket goes for $325.

We chatted with the Brooklyn-based designer about her obsession with Victorian blouses (she's been collecting them since she was a teen) and the one La Vie item we need stat.

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weekend wardrobe

Rebecca Taylor's new line celebrates classics like striped t-shirts and cargo pants. ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

If someone could buy just one piece from La Vie, which one would you suggest?
I love the Anais patch jeans. It has a little bit of a fashion edge to it, but not so much that you feel like you're wearing your teenage daughter's jeans.

La Vie Anais jeans
$235, REBECCATAYLOR.COM

What is it about the Victorian silhouette you love so much?
I've always loved Victorian blouses. I'm from New Zealand and there wasn't a lot of fashion being imported from overseas. So if you wanted to have a unique style you had to go into vintage and flea markets and put it together. And there's a lot of Victorian vintage out there for some reason. So that's where my love of crisp white cottons and eyelets began. I'm really into Victorian literature, too. There's something about a woman growing up I the 1800s that really fascinates me.

La Vie printed voile top
$225, REBECCATAYLOR.COM

Why did you name the line "La Vie"?
I'm a real Franco-phile. I love France, I love French food, I love French wine.

ISTOCK

The stripes and flea markets there really influenced my early collections. When I'm in Paris I always feel like I'm my very best self.

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Bringing back Frank

Beyond the controversy of a statue outside the Municipal Services Building: Here's Bruce Graham's play, "Rizzo" again — this time at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Bruce Graham's play, "Rizzo," comes to the Suzanne Roberts Theatre from Sept. 23 to Oct. 16. PROVIDED

The first time I witnessed Bruce Graham's incendiary play "Rizzo" — commissioned by Theatre Exile, based upon Sal Paolantonio's best-selling book "Frank Rizzo: The Last Big Man in Big City America" — a fight broke out at a staged reading at South Philly's Studio X. Not between random audience members with heated opinions of the late mayor, but rather between a Rizzo hater and the playwright, in a situation that nearly came to fisticuffs. "That same guy I nearly fought at the preview paid to see the play on opening night," said Graham earlier this year about "Rizzo," first staged to sold out crowds in 2015.

That's the sort of love/hate relationship that Frank Rizzo — the famed Philly beat-cop-turned-police-commissioner-turned-mayor — inspired amongst the locals between the late 1940s and 1991, when he died at age 70. To some he was a still-lionized hero who helped working class and ethnic communities and kept peace by any means necessary. To others, he was a racist pig. That's why Black Lives Matter's Philly chapter wants to remove the Rizzo statue from outside the Municipal Services Building.

When Theatre Exile director Joe Canuso and Graham restage "Rizzo" at Broad Street's Suzanne Roberts Theatre (Sept. 23 - Oct. 16) with local great Scott Greer again in the grand, titular role, it marks a quick reunion for Graham and Canuso, who just wrapped their "Tommy & Me" play with WIP sports announcer-writer Ray Didinger at the FringeArts headquarters. "It saves a lot of time and energy when you work with a director you know and trust," says Graham. "Joe's a nice guy. I'm the pain in the ass." Canuso counters that, in Graham, he's found a constant collaborator with a similar blue collar background to his. "And Bruce always provides a bottle of gin."

In reconsidering his play for restaging, Graham did pen a scene about how Philly cops treated minorities in the '60s ("it's taken right from Sal's book"). Another daunting aspect of Frank the man became very clear this time — the perceived parallels between Rizzo and Donald Trump. "We're certainly playing up Rizzo's similarity to another politician of the moment who 'says what he thinks' and likes to stir people up by scaring the hell out of them. There are some weird parallels between Frank and that current candidate."

Canuso agrees that when he first commissioned Graham to write the play two years ago, Trump wasn't even a thought. "Now, sadly we are in a position where we are discussing some of the same volatile issues that plagued much of Rizzo's tenure." The director doesn't see his role or the play's as playing judge or jury. Instead, Theatre Exile's "Rizzo" tells the whole story and tries to be as fair and objective. "We have no agenda except to be truthful and honest," claims Canuso.

"Wherever I can, I use actual quotes from the people who were there to keep it as honest as I can," says Graham.

"Moving it to a bigger stage this time feels right because Rizzo's personality demands it," notes Canuso. "He was bigger than life and we can stage it in a way that does justice to his enormous ego. It also feels right that we are doing it in the shadow of City Hall."

As for any potential protests or anger from Black Lives Matter members (or anyone who perceived Rizzo as a power-hungry headbanger) Graham states the obvious when asked if he expects trouble outside the Suzanne Roberts Theatre during "Rizzo's" run. "God, I hope so. No such thing as bad publicity."

If you go

"Rizzo"
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If you go

Hennypalooza
Friday, Sept. 2
The Trocadero
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hennypalooza.com

Hennypalooza comes to Philly this Friday

We chat with the founder of the Hennessy-infused celebration about how he turned a house party into a nationally touring event.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

If you want to start your Labor Day weekend off with a bang, look no further than Hennypalooza, which comes to the Trocadero on Friday, Sept. 2. Initially launched in Harlem in 2012 as a house party, this event now tours nationally — mixing music, community, good vibes and, of course, all-you-can-drink Hennessy. We chatted with founder Kameron McCullough about the beginnings of Hennypalooza, and what to expect Friday.

First I've got to ask: Why Hennessy?
It was what my friends and I liked at the time we started it. We didn't think it would turn into this. It's also been ingrained in urban culture forever.

How did the party get started?
It started in 2012 around Christmastime. I wanted to have a holiday game night at my apartment with a few friends. We themed it around Hennessy — so either bring a bottle of Hennessy or fried chicken to my apartment. In the initial invite text, I hashtagged #hennypalooza, sent it to 10 people and everyone jokingly started tweeting the hashtag. This party was happening in my two-bedroom apartment.

Uh-oh.
We sent the text message on a Tuesday and on Thursday night, Lowkey, who now hosts the event, said, "You should look at the number of tweets!" I saw a bunch of people talking about the party, asking where it is, how much is it to get in. I went to my landlord and asked to rent the community room for the event, which cost $25. [Laughs] I was like, "You can bring a few people now. We have the space for 100." My one friend DJ'd. The first one is probably the most memorable for me because of the way it all came together.

How did you grow it from there?
In February of 2013, we moved to an art gallery on the Lower East Side. Then the third one in June, we decided to legitimize it. We started going to licensed venues and built it out bit by bit. A ton of trial and error, a ton of growing pains — but we sit here now and we're a touring party and it all started from a BYOB game night. The story never gets old for me. This party has changed party culture in general.

In what way?
When it started, we were very much in the "everyone standing around staring at each other poppin' bottles" style of party — the worst kind of party, in my opinion. My peer group of young professionals hated those types of events. With this, it peeled back the layers of pretentiousness and brought a different level of cool to it. We're still paying to go out but everyone is talking to each other now. It creates a different community of folks. It's not centered around the alcohol. It's just fun.

What can we expect from the Philly party?
We want you to feel like it's more than worth it. It's an open bar until the liquor is gone. We buy a ton of Hennessy so folks can drink sufficiently. There's a full cash bar, too, in case you don't drink Hennessy. We have a ton of folks like that. The music is always A-plus. We've been known in the past to have a lot of guests come through, too. Artists like Pusha T, Wale, Ty Dolla $ign and Nipsey Hussle have all performed full sets over the years.

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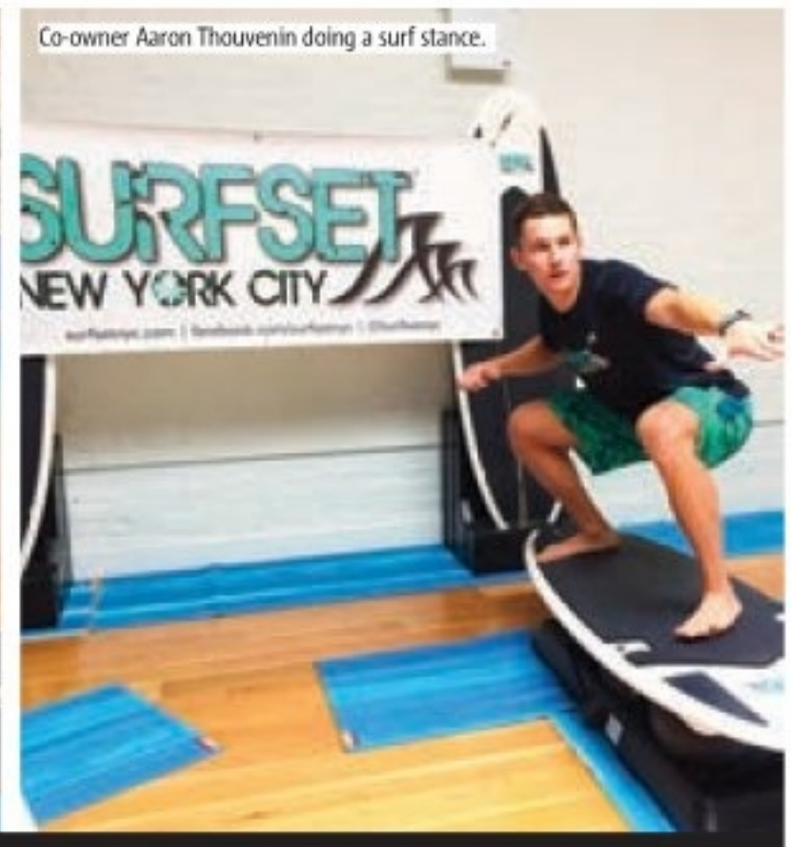

Co-owner Aaron Thouvenin doing a surf stance.

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MAKE HEALTHY YOUR NEW HAPPY

Catching a workout

Our health editor takes a surf-inspired workout class to see if she can hang 10.

KATE MOONEY
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Though I am a lover of the ocean, I've never surfed before. That's partly because I haven't had access — while plenty of folks surf in the city, you kind of have to seek it out — and partly because it feels a little daunting.

But when Good Thins, Nabisco's new line of healthful chips, invited me to attend a class at Surfset NYC, a surf-inspired workout not too far out of my daily commute, it seemed too good to pass up.

Fun fact: Surfset Fitness was originally founded by entrepreneur Mike Hartwick and nutrition expert Sarah Ponn, and received funding in 2012 from "Shark Tank."

When I arrived at the studio, trainer and co-owner Diana Garrett, who was leading my class that night, explained that the 45-minute workout, which combines actual surf moves with yoga, cardio and strength-building circuit training, is done aboard the RipSurfer X, a 6-foot-long surf training board that sits on three balance balls to simulate the wobble you would experience in the water.

"The instability adds an extra challenge and also magnifies any misalignments," Garrett says.

The room is set up to evoke beachiness through and through, from the blue and white wave-inspired yoga mats placed beneath the RipSurfer X boards, to the surf movies projected in the background, to Garrett's pineapple-patterned spandex pants.

And while working out is no day at the beach, this class is designed to feel just like that. Bicycle kicks are called "shark kicks"; the fitness move known as mountain climbers is instead referred to as "wave runners"; and one of my favorite moves, "hot sand," had us repeatedly jumping up onto the board from the ground, as though to relieve our burning feet. At different points, we would lie belly-down and make-believe "paddle" with our hands. From plank position, we would pop up into surf stance.

The class takes place on a RipSurferX.

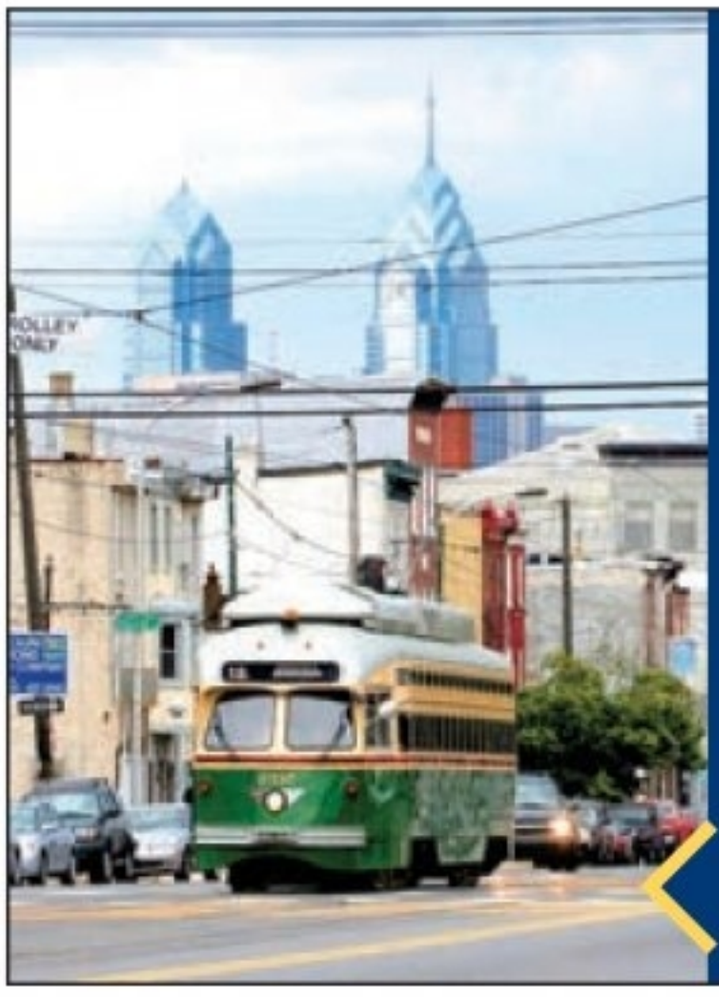
But unlike a typical beach day lounging on the sand, this was fairly intense. I typically jog for exercise, so I wasn't accustomed to the rapid-fire change in movements. But the creativity of the routine kept me grinning as my heart rate climbed.

"I wanted to take [my] love of surfing and working out and bring them together in a way that's equal parts fun and challenging," says Garrett. "There's a solid surf culture here in New York, and we know people want to learn it."

One day, I hope to catch a real wave — and now, when the opportunity presents itself, I'll be less afraid to wipeout.

Try a similar class

Aqua Vida offers "floating yoga" on paddle boards on the water. Locations at UPenn, Drexel University and Spruce St. Harbor Park



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This is why you get carsick

Your brain thinks it's being poisoned.

DMITRY BELYAEV
Metro World News
letters@metro.us

Dr. Dean Burnett PROVIDED

Reading while riding in the passenger seat? Your brain is probably confused. FLICKR/CC

Why do we get car sick? According to Dean Burnett, neuroscientist at Cardiff University in Wales, author of "Idiot Brain: What Your Head is Really Up To," our brain believes it has been poisoned. Being in a car, plane, train or boat causes conflicting signals in our head: Although muscles are motionless, eyes tell the brain you are moving while fluid in the balance sensors in the ears is rocking around to suggest movement as well.

How did you decide to look into car sickness?
I was looking into all the different ways the brain gets confused or scrambled by modern life. Given that the world around us humans is the result of us having big powerful brains and the intelligence that comes from them, it's technically a victim of its own success. But I feel the brain has a mystique and awe about it that can be unhelpful, even harmful. I wanted to puncture that, and travel sickness was one good example of how the brain isn't some all-powerful entity and can get things wrong or be confused.

Why is car sickness so important?
In a world where travel is increasingly common, then motion sickness is going to become a bigger issue — especially if you bring space travel into it, as the lack of gravity can often make things far worse again. Finding out what causes it and how to deal with it will make a lot of people's lives easier. It will also help us understand how the brain works at fundamental levels, and the applications of such information could be far-ranging.

What provokes it?
The current main theory, the one most commonly cited, is that artificial movement via vehicles is something the brain hasn't evolved to process. The sensory signals don't match up — no activity in the muscles and limbs, no obvious visual cues, but plenty of movement being sensed by the balance sensors. The parts of the brain responsible for sensory processing get confused, possibly concluding that a hallucination is occurring. The only real cause of this, as far as the primitive parts of the brain are concerned, is poison, so the vomit reflex is triggered to get rid of it.

And self-driving cars?
I enjoyed discovering that self-driving cars make people more prone to motion sickness, because they're not as physically involved with the process, I reckon, and thus more prone to the sensory mismatch.

What are the best ways to fight car sickness?
There are many theories. Looking out of the window or staring at a fixed point at the horizon allows the brain to visually recognize motion better as it can see all the things going by, so the mismatch is reduced. There are simple things like ginger, which address the stomach upset directly but don't deal with the brain issue. And there are medications which reduce the signals from the balance sensors for serious cases. A lot of the time though people just grow out of it. Children's brains are still developing so they're more prone to it.

What's next?
More research, more study, more efforts to look into the exact mechanism and deal with it safely and effectively.

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Whose stock is up, whose is down as preseason nears end for Eagles

Who helped their standing the most in Preseason Week 3?

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sports@metro.us

Can Nelson Agholor become a reliable receiving option for Sam Bradford? GETTY IMAGES

In the NFL, no game holds more weight in regards to personnel battles and starting spots than Week 3 of the preseason. This is no more evident than in the Philadelphia Eagles' training camp, where a period of transition from the Chip Kelly era has left new head coach Doug Pederson and his staff with a wide array of decisions to make on who is deserving of which roster spot. Here is a look at whose stock rose or fell the most after the Eagles' crucial third game of the preseason, against the Indianapolis Colts:

Up

Sam Bradford

Despite drafting Carson Wentz and signing Chase Daniel, Philadelphia went to great lengths to assure everyone, Bradford included, that the former Heisman winner was their starting quarterback in 2016. So while Bradford was never in a true competition for his roster spot, many had little faith in his ability after a lackluster 2015, and a public feud with the team. Through three weeks of preseason games, however, Bradford has done quite a lot to prove his critics wrong; most notably against Indianapolis, Saturday night. The 28-year-old went 17-20, threw for 167 yards, as well as two touchdowns, and distanced himself from any notions of competition.

Dorial Green-Beckham

In Tennessee, Green-Beckham's stock had never been lower, and as a result they moved on from the controversial wide receiver. Now, in Philadelphia, Howie Roseman is hoping that a change of scenery will help the 23-year-old finally showcase the talent he has been teasing for years. And so far, his stock is on the rise. Against Indianapolis, Green-Beckham had just two catches, but a four-yard touchdown reception proved just how valuable the 6-foot-5, 237 pound receiver can be for a team that had trouble scoring in the red zone last year.

Down

Mychal Kendricks

While Kendricks was seeing his first action of the pre-season against Indianapolis, his performance was worrisome, especially after a mediocre 2015. For large stretches of the game the 25-year-old was notably absent, and in the end he did not manage to record even one tackle. Furthermore, he was subbed off in Philadelphia's nickel package, which may be a sign that Pederson is preparing the former standout for a reduced role.

Nelson Agholor

Agholor's rare flashes of brilliance will likely buy him many chances to prove himself going forward, but he has not capitalized on his playing time in 2016, to this point. The Eagles' first-round pick in 2015 has just two catches in the three games Philadelphia has played thus far, and was targeted just once Saturday night. Beyond that, the second-year wide receiver has shown a consistent propensity for dropping the ball, including his lone target against Indianapolis, which turned into an interception for the Colts. Agholor will make the roster, but his stock is plummeting in the eyes of the coaching staff and the fanbase.

Eagles linebacker changes mind, will stand for anthem

Eagles Monday, Eagles undrafted free agent Myke Tavarres made headlines when he told ESPN that he planned to join 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick in protest of the way the United States treats minorities and refuse to stand during the national anthem before Thursday's fourth preseason game.

But later Monday, according to ESPN, his agent interjected to stop the protest.

"He plans on standing for the national anthem," Tavarres' agent, Corey Williams, said in a statement Monday. "Myke does not want to be a distraction to the Philadelphia Eagles organization. Myke's goal is and will always be to make the Eagles 53-man roster and help the team win a Super Bowl."

Williams said in the report that he spoke out against his client's original opinion.

The linebacker has an outside shot at landing on the Eagles opening-day roster after playing college ball at Incarnate Word. Prior to Williams' statement, Tavarres' opinion was shared about the injustice he sees in this country and the forum that being in the NFL affords him.

"We've got an issue in this country in this day and age, and I feel like somebody needs to step up and we all need to step up," Tavarres told ESPN. "We've got that right. There's just a lot going on that people don't want to talk about, and I feel like us as athletes, we're looked at as role models. And I feel like with Colin Kaepernick, he's doing a great job for standing up in what he believes in, and most people may not like that, but that's his opinion, he's entitled to it, and I respect him for doing it."

Kaepernick refused to stand prior to his team's Week 3 preseason game last week. His actions have been divisive, but have also raised the very issue he intended to raise.

Whether or not Tavarres will adhere to the updated statement given by his agent when the players take the field against the Jets is still an unknown — but it sounds like the player is at least being told he should be prioritizing football and not politics at this time. EVAN MACY

Myke Tavarres apparently had a change of heart Monday. GETTY IMAGES

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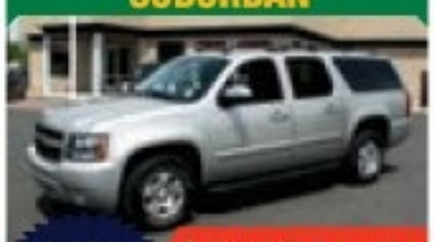
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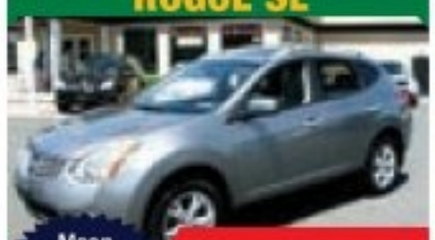
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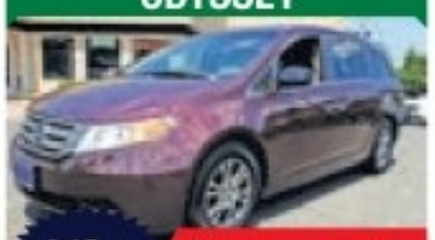
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Such is the life of Rueben Randle, the pulseless wide receiver cut by the Eagles on Sunday. The former second-round pick of the New York Giants had performed so listlessly that he was purged two weeks before the opener — even though the Eagles have among the thinnest wide receiver corps in the NFL.

Good riddance. Randle was this year's version of Steve Smith or Miles Austin, a former division opponent who once torched the Eagles and now was joining to help the cause. In each case, that player proved to be a slug as soon as he showed up at the NovaCare Complex.

But Randle, 25, was worse. Smith and Austin could use age or injury to excuse their ineptitude in green. Randle's only excuse is that he didn't care. He jogged through pass routes, refused to block, dropped easy catches and earned a numbskull penalty in the Tampa Bay game.

You could sense coach Doug Pederson's exasperation. Last Saturday against the Colts, Ramblin' Rueben ran just two plays with the first-unit offense — with the word "ran" being generous. Three days later, he was gone.

Give the Eagles credit. Signing Randle was a low-cost gamble, and they quickly cut their losses. Certainly the arrival of Dorial Green-Beckham — another former second-rounder who arrives with flaws — had much to do with the decision. Maybe the evictions of Randle and fellow free-agent bust Chris Givens open a roster spot for undrafted rookie Paul Turner. And don't be surprised if GM Howie Roseman goes back to the waiver wire bump-and-dent aisle before rosters are finalized.

The confounding aspect is that Randle has talent. Two seasons ago he had 71 catches and 938 yards for New York. The stats declined last year, and the TV cameras often caught QB Eli Manning making that sour-milk pouty face and gesturing to Randle as he failed to complete a route or ran the wrong way. When the Giants let Randle walk this offseason, his lack of chemistry with the QB was cited as a big reason.

But given a chance at redemption here, Randall slept through first period and never got the message. In an interview with ESPN last week, he said, "I feel like I get read wrong because I do a lot of things naturally and it doesn't seem like I'm giving much effort."

"If I go out there and make a one-handed catch and make it look effortless, I get praised for it, but if I do all these other things effortlessly, it's like I'm not giving much effort."

Eagles fans never did see those one-handed catches. Or any effort. To quote one of my favorite movie lines, from "A Bronx Tale," "The saddest thing in life is wasted talent." Good riddance, Rueben.

Even with their shortcomings at wide receiver, the Eagles did not have room on the roster for Rueben Randle. GETTY IMAGES

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14 La Scala locale
15 Toward shelter
16 Water or tel.
17 Proofreads
18 Conjecture
20 Velvety surface
21 Rudders
23 Bamboo stalks
24 Capsule, maybe
25 Moo goo — pan
26 Works hard
29 Crepe cousins
34 Saying
35 Lowly laborers
36 Ms. Hagen of films
37 Ruse
38 Rolls tightly
39 Slimy critter
40 Bridal notice word
41 Terra —
42 Dutch cheese
43 Makes it through
45 Deletes data
46 Bullring yell
47 Arduous journey
48 Reel
51 It has an eye
53 Objective
56 Dangerous situation (2 wds.)
58 Slip back
60 Boulder's st.
61 — colada
62 Use force
63 Mr. Moto's reply (2 wds.)
64 Natural elevs.
65 Made mention of

Down

1 Comic-book heroes (hyph.)
2 Met role
3 Money holder
4 Edge a doily
5 Not at sea (2 wds.)
6 Bird of prey
7 Grad
8 Fair grades
9 Men and boys
10 Iraq neighbor
11 Solar deity
12 Onetime Italian coins
13 Bugling beasts
19 Glances over
22 Slalom run
24 Venetian magistrate
25 Wins at rummy
26 Grassy places
27 Farewell
28 Hay bundler
29 Road shoulders
30 "Damn Yankees" vamp
31 Some South Africans
32 Liszt opus
33 Epics
35 Full-strength
38 Wallet stuffer
39 Overcharge
41 Monsieur's daughter
42 Imaginary troublemaker
44 Kind of doll
45 Goof it up
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48 Pet lovers' gp.
49 Tigger's pal
50 Night fliers
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52 Opry's st.
53 Client mtg.
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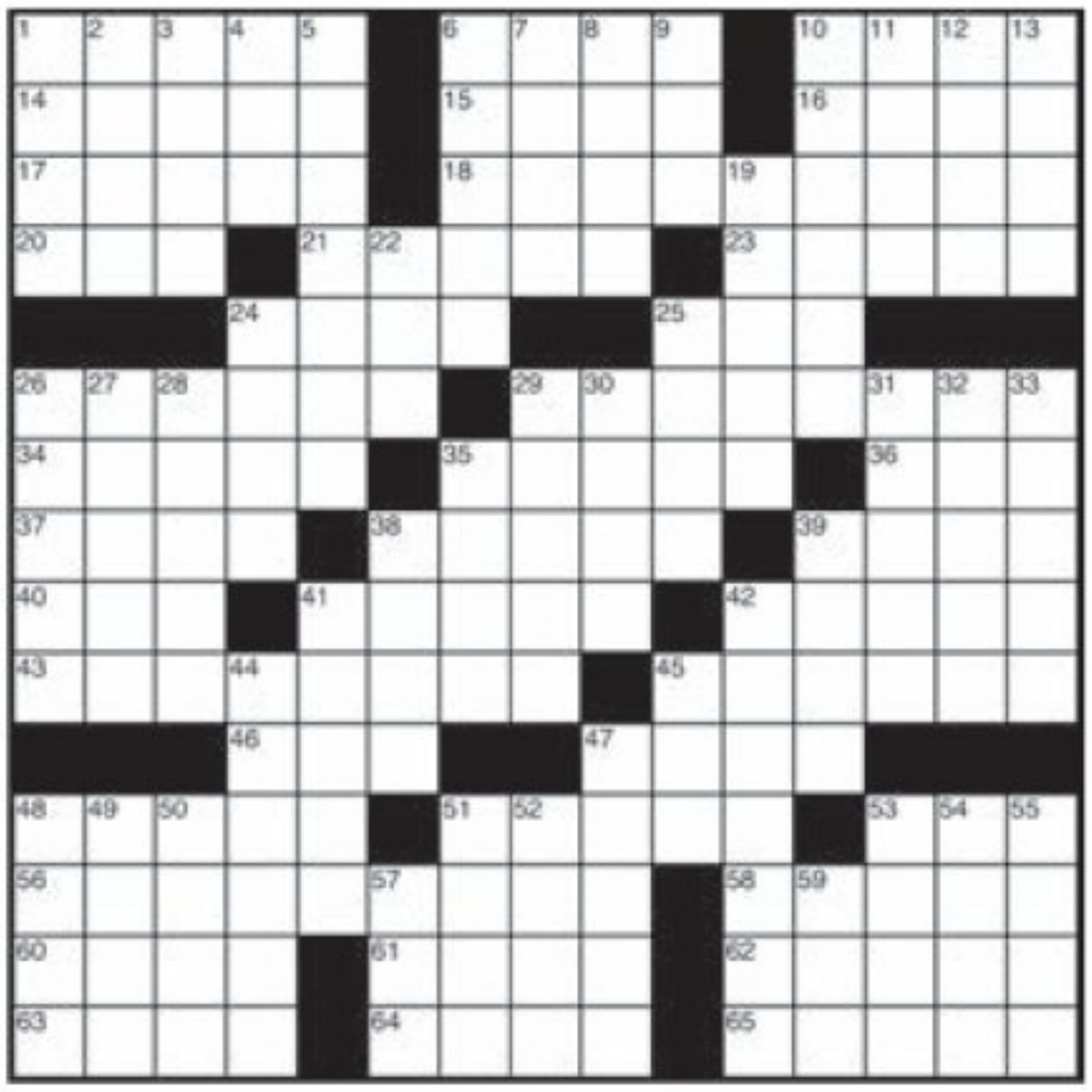
55 Blend
57 45 or 78
59 Centurion's sweet nothing?



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easy

8			1		2	5		
3					8			4
	2	1						6
	9			1			2	
1	6			2			5	9
	8			3			7	
9						1	6	
7			6					2
		4	2		7			5

hard

	6	4	9			1		
1			2			7	3	
			7					5
		8	3	2				
6		1		7		8		3
				6	8	5		
8					7			
	7	6			2			4
		9			3	2	6	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Slow down or you'll miss a good deal. A chance to turn an idea into a moneymaking venture looks awesome. An update to your appearance will boost your morale.

Taurus Don't let your personal life interfere with your work. Focus on what needs to be done if you want to get ahead. Think big and go after your goals.

Gemini A challenge will turn out to be greater than anticipated. Think twice before you take on something you will not be able to finish. Look out for your best interests.

Cancer If you compromise a little, you will get a whole lot in return. Use your imagination to come up with solutions that will appease others and suit your needs. Think big.

Leo Make plans to do things with the older or younger people in your life. A fun-filled event you can share with loved ones will bring you closer together.

Virgo Arguing is a waste of time. If something isn't working for you, you need to change it. Do what's best for you and don't look back. Forward motion will lead to your success.

Libra Someone with clout will recognize your skill and talent. Procrastination will lead to uncertainty. Don't fear making a change. Life is about taking chances, not watching it pass you by.

Scorpio Participate in events that will encourage you to display what you have to offer. Collaborating with an interesting person will help you bypass someone else trying to outdo you.

Sagittarius You need a change. A short trip that could enlighten you regarding personal or professional situations is encouraged. Don't give in to temptation.

Capricorn Take care of matters personally. No one else will do the job the way you want it done. A short trip will expand your professional options as well as your knowledge.

Aquarius You can make favorable changes in your relationships if you go the extra mile. Romantic plans will give you something to look forward to.

Pisces Don't feel that you have to travel when you can get everything you need from the comfort of your home. You'll avoid frustration by staying put. **EUGENIA LAST**

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